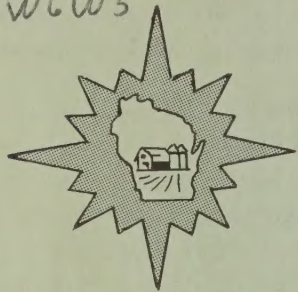


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VI, NO. 4

February 1974

Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in January was down 3 percent from a year ago after averaging 4 percent lower in 1973.

Prices of most livestock and crops in Wisconsin increased from December to January so the index of prices received for farm products was up 3 percent.

Red meat production in Wisconsin for December was 9 percent above a year ago as both beef and pork output were higher.

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$30.70 in January for a feeder pig weighing 40 pounds, a decline of \$1.40 from October 1973 but nearly \$6.00 above last year.

Cheese production in the Nation during 1973 was 2 percent more than in 1972 but output of butter declined 16 percent.

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in January are expected to average \$8.68 a hundredweight, up \$2.73 from a year earlier and a record high.

Milk production per cow in Wisconsin during 1973 was down from the previous year for the first time since 1952.

Cold storage stocks of meat and cheese in the Nation at the end of January were higher than a year ago but butter stocks were sharply lower.

The annual inventory of livestock and poultry on Wisconsin farms showed an increase in all cattle, hogs, and turkey breeder hens but a decline in chickens and sheep and lambs.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued to increase during January, with Swiss cheese exceeding a dollar a pound for the first time.

Beef cattle prices at St. Paul and Kansas City were higher in January than a month earlier as were prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul.

MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOWER

Production of milk on Wisconsin farms during January totaled 1,491 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier. This completed a full year that monthly milk production was below the previous year. January's production increased seasonally 6 percent from December, the same gain as in December 1972 - January 1973. Output per cow in January averaged 830 pounds, down 10 pounds from last year. The revised estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1973 was 18,442 million pounds, a 4 percent decline from 1972.

The Nation's milk production of 9,278 million pounds during January was also 3 percent under a year ago. Production of milk in the Nation has been below the previous year since September 1972. January's output increased 3 percent from December compared with a 2 percent gain for those months a year earlier. Production per cow in January averaged 824 pounds, 2 pounds less than in January 1973. A review of more complete production and utilization data shows that the Nation's milk production for 1973 totaled 115.6 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 1972.

Milk Production

Selected States	January 1973	January 1974	Change from last year	Revised Jan.-Dec. 1973
	Million pounds		Percent	Million pounds
Wisconsin	1,533	1,491	- 3	18,442
Minnesota	823	822	n. c.	9,369
Iowa	340	295	- 13	4,049
New York	830	810	- 2	9,728
Pennsylvania	559	555	- 1	6,702
California	828	830	n. c.	10,348
Other states	4,668	4,475	- 4	56,982
United States	9,581	9,278	- 3	115,620

MILK PRICES START 1974 AT RECORD HIGH

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in January are expected to average \$8.68 a hundredweight, up 16 cents from the previous record high in December. A year

ago in January the all milk price averaged \$5.95 a hundred-weight.

Milk prices for December averaged \$8.52 a hundred-weight, a gain of 24 cents from November and \$2.53 above a year earlier. Milkfat content in December averaged 3.83 percent, the same as December 1972.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$8.64 a hundredweight during December, an increase of 26 cents from the previous month and \$2.54 more than a year ago. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$8.35 a hundredweight in December, was up 22 cents from November and \$2.53 higher than December 1972. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 29 cents for December compared with 28 cents a year earlier.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	November 1973		December price per cwt.			January 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.86	8.28	5.99	8.52	+ 42	8.68
Minnesota	3.74	7.83	5.63	8.08	+ 44	8.13
Iowa	3.80	8.05	5.93	8.49	+ 43	8.70
New York	3.69	8.90	6.79	8.70	+ 28	8.70
California	3.76	7.80	5.91	8.00	+ 35	7.95
United States	3.80	8.63	6.54	8.82	+ 35	8.88
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.87	8.38	6.10	8.64	+ 42	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.85	8.13	5.82	8.35	+ 43	XXX
Creameries	3.85	8.00	5.78	8.23	+ 42	XXX
Cheese factories	3.85	8.14	5.83	8.36	+ 43	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.84	8.10	5.73	8.30	+ 45	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Dec. 1972	Nov. 1973	Dec. 1973 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.47	7.51	7.79	+ 42
Market milk	5.59	7.58	7.85	+ 40
Manufacturing milk	5.30	7.39	7.67	+ 45
Creameries	5.16	7.27	7.58	+ 47
American cheese plants	5.33	7.41	7.70	+ 44
Varied products plants	5.21	7.38	7.61	+ 46
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	5.95	7.98	8.39	+ 41

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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CHEESE PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT IN 1973 BUT BUTTER DOWN 16 PERCENT

Production of all cheese in the Nation during 1973 was 2 percent more than in 1972 but output of butter declined 16 percent, according to preliminary estimates. American cheese production was up 1 percent in 1973 and Italian cheese production increased 7 percent. Although the national output of Swiss cheese in 1973 was down 6 percent from 1972, production of Brick and Muenster gained 1 percent and all other cheese was up 3 percent.

Wisconsin produced 732 million pounds of American cheese during 1973, just slightly higher than in 1972. Minnesota manufactured 26 percent more American cheese in 1973 than in 1972 but Missouri was down 20 percent and all states declined 2 percent.

Cheese production in the Nation during December was 11 percent above a year earlier as increases of 18 percent for American, 14 percent for Italian and 3 percent for Brick and Muenster offset an 18 percent decline for Swiss and a 13 percent drop in all other cheese.

American cheese production in Wisconsin during December was 11 percent higher than the previous year and other states also had increased production.

The Nation's butter production of 922 million pounds in 1973 was the lowest on record dating back to 1919. Declines from 1972 by states were 9 percent in Wisconsin, 16 percent in Minnesota, 30 percent in Iowa, and 17 percent in

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Dec. 1972	Dec. 1973	Jan.-Dec. 1973	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	13,927	13,900	180,830	n. c.	- 9
Minnesota	18,026	15,860	219,340	- 12	- 16
Iowa	6,016	2,700	59,340	- 55	- 30
Other states	43,599	35,010	462,849	- 20	- 17
United States	81,568	67,470	922,359	- 17	- 16
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	53,001	58,900	732,050	+ 11	n. c.
Minnesota	17,914	24,000	241,160	+ 34	+ 26
Missouri	4,900	5,000	73,450	+ 2	- 20
Other states	43,686	53,077	619,177	+ 21	- 2
United States	119,501	140,977	1,665,837	+ 18	+ 1
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	15,471	12,708	166,956	- 18	- 6
Brick and Muenster	5,704	5,883	67,828	+ 3	+ 1
Italian	43,062	49,291	548,378	+ 14	+ 7
All other	22,546	19,715	202,206	- 13	+ 3
Total	86,783	87,597	985,368	+ 1	+ 3
ALL CHEESE					
United States	206,284	228,574	2,651,405	+ 11	+ 2
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	55,843	48,737	763,586	- 13	- 3
Creamed 2/	71,648	63,977	976,946	- 11	- 4
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,108	1,150	16,980	+ 4	- 10
Illinois	2,943	3,180	44,980	+ 8	+ 7
Iowa	509	600	7,950	+ 18	+ 3
Michigan	2,310	2,165	35,290	- 6	+ 4
Minnesota	2,088	2,010	30,460	- 4	+ 2
Other states	42,348	42,143	650,275	n. c.	+ 2
United States	51,306	51,248	785,935	n. c.	+ 2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

all other states. Churnings of butter in Wisconsin during December showed little change from a year earlier but other states were down considerably.

The Nation's output of cottage cheese curd in December was 13 percent under a year ago while creamed cottage cheese production was down 11 percent. During 1973 the cottage cheese curd production in the Nation was 3 percent below 1972 and creamed production declined 4 percent. The national output of ice cream for December was nearly the same as a year ago but production in 1973 was up 2 percent from 1972.

**Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States**

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1971	Dec. 31, 1972	Dec. 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,025	3,351	5,124	+ 53
Dried skim milk	78,110	38,724	75,878	+ 96
Dried buttermilk	2,738	2,717	5,715	+ 110
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	88,576	74,698	69,175	- 7

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

WHOLESALE SWISS CHEESE PRICE EXCEEDS DOLLAR A POUND

Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged over a dollar a pound in January. This was the first time that wholesale prices of Swiss cheese averaged above a dollar a pound. The January average of \$1.02 for Swiss cheese was about 3½ cents higher than December and 25 cents more than a year ago.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged almost 90 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during January. This was a gain of over 1½ cents from December and the 11th consecutive month that wholesale cheddar cheese prices increased. A year ago in January the average price of cheddar cheese was only 63¾ cents a pound.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market declined again from December to January. The January average of 70.80 cents a pound was down about 3½ cents from the previous month and 6¼ cents under two months earlier. However, wholesale prices of 92-score butter at New York in January were more than 2 cents above last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	January 1973	December 1973	January 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.71¢	74.36¢	70.80¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	63.75¢	88.25¢	89.92¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	77.20¢	98.75¢	102.20¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$8.10-9.10	\$10.80-11.05	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	39.06¢	52.03¢	55.13¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY IN JANUARY

Weekly estimates of American cheese production in the Nation during January indicate an increase of almost a fourth from a year ago. Production in December was up 18 percent from last year but total output of American cheese for 1973 was only 1 percent above 1972. Wisconsin's production of American cheese in January was well above a year earlier. The State produced 11 percent more American cheese in December than a year ago but production for 1973 showed little change from 1972.

According to weekly estimates, the Nation's butter production in January was down 15 percent from the previous year. This drop was only slightly less than the 17 percent decline in December and the 16 percent reduction for 1973 compared with 1972. Wisconsin's butter production fluctuated during January, being higher than a year ago early in the month but then declining until the last week of January when it showed little change. The State's butter output for December was about the same as a year earlier but churnings in 1973 were 9 percent less than in 1972.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
Dec.	67,470	- 17	n. c.	140,977	+ 18	+ 11
Jan.-Dec. . .	922,359	- 16	- 9	1,665,837	+ 1	n. c.
Weeks ending						
Jan. 3 . . .	19,350	- 11	+ 8	37,200	+ 25	+ 15
Jan. 10 . .	18,500	- 13	+ 16	33,050	+ 21	+ 11
Jan. 17 . .	17,800	- 14	- 4	33,000	+ 24	+ 12
Jan. 24 . .	18,000	- 19	- 7	35,100	+ 27	+ 20
Jan. 31 . .	18,250	- 17	n. c.	35,950	+ 22	+ 13
Total	91,900	- 15	XXX	174,300	+ 24	XXX

MILK PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1973

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in 1973 totaled 18.4 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 1972 and the lowest since a similar production in 1970. The decline in milk production during 1973 was due to fewer cows on farms and a reduced output per cow. The annual average number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms for 1973 was 1,810,000, a drop of 21,000 from a year earlier. Production per cow averaged 10,189 pounds in 1973, down 3 percent from the previous year and the first time since 1952 that the annual average output per cow was lower than a year earlier. The Nation's milk production for 1973 was also down 4 percent from 1972. Wisconsin produced 16 percent of the Nation's milk supply in 1973.

Total milk production in the Nation during 1973 was 115.6 billion pounds. The annual average number of milk cows on farms in 1973 was a record low of 11,419,000, down 2 percent from 1972. Output per cow in the Nation for 1973 was 10,125 pounds, 1 percent below 1972 and the first time since 1944 that production per cow declined from the previous year.

Number of Milk Cows in Herds on Farms, Wisconsin, 1962-73 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
1,000 head													
1962	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150
1963	2,150	2,150	2,148	2,147	2,146	2,145	2,144	2,143	2,143	2,142	2,141	2,140	2,145
1964	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,139	2,138	2,138	2,138	2,137	2,135	2,139
1965	2,128	2,120	2,110	2,100	2,090	2,080	2,070	2,060	2,050	2,040	2,030	2,020	2,075
1966	2,011	2,003	1,995	1,988	1,981	1,975	1,970	1,965	1,960	1,956	1,952	1,949	1,975
1967	1,946	1,943	1,940	1,937	1,934	1,931	1,928	1,925	1,922	1,919	1,916	1,913	1,930
1968	1,909	1,905	1,900	1,895	1,890	1,885	1,880	1,875	1,869	1,863	1,858	1,853	1,882
1969	1,849	1,846	1,843	1,839	1,836	1,833	1,830	1,827	1,824	1,821	1,818	1,816	1,832
1970	1,815	1,815	1,814	1,814	1,813	1,813	1,812	1,812	1,813	1,813	1,814	1,814	1,814
1971	1,815	1,816	1,817	1,818	1,819	1,821	1,822	1,824	1,826	1,828	1,830	1,832	1,822
1972	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,831	1,831	1,830	1,829	1,827	1,831
1973	1,825	1,823	1,820	1,817	1,814	1,811	1,808	1,805	1,803	1,801	1,799	1,797	1,810

1/Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

Milk Production per Cow, Wisconsin, 1962-73 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Pounds													
1962	720	680	785	795	875	870	740	650	605	645	614	671	8,650
1963	700	665	775	795	880	875	735	660	610	650	630	695	8,670
1964	750	745	840	840	920	885	740	665	620	660	650	735	9,050
1965	785	740	855	860	920	890	775	685	617	630	625	685	9,080
1966	730	690	810	835	900	920	795	725	660	670	660	740	9,140
1967	780	735	820	855	920	925	835	755	690	705	680	740	9,440
1968	785	766	860	880	960	940	846	775	710	715	695	740	9,676
1969	780	745	860	875	975	992	885	810	735	710	700	775	9,853
1970	810	765	890	915	1,000	1,000	905	835	750	766	735	795	10,163
1971	840	795	910	940	1,025	1,005	905	845	770	785	735	790	10,345
1972	835	810	925	940	1,020	1,025	945	870	800	800	739	790	10,500
1973	840	795	920	940	995	980	890	810	745	760	725	785	10,189

1/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Production on Farms, Wisconsin, 1962-73 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Million pounds													
1962	1,548	1,462	1,688	1,709	1,881	1,870	1,591	1,398	1,301	1,387	1,320	1,443	18,598
1963	1,505	1,430	1,665	1,707	1,888	1,877	1,576	1,414	1,407	1,392	1,349	1,487	18,597
1964	1,605	1,594	1,798	1,798	1,969	1,894	1,583	1,422	1,326	1,411	1,389	1,569	19,358
1965	1,670	1,569	1,804	1,806	1,923	1,851	1,604	1,411	1,265	1,285	1,269	1,384	18,841
1966	1,468	1,382	1,616	1,660	1,783	1,817	1,566	1,425	1,294	1,311	1,288	1,442	18,052
1967	1,518	1,428	1,591	1,656	1,779	1,786	1,610	1,453	1,326	1,353	1,303	1,416	18,219
1968	1,499	1,459	1,634	1,668	1,814	1,772	1,590	1,453	1,327	1,332	1,291	1,371	18,210
1969	1,442	1,375	1,585	1,609	1,790	1,818	1,620	1,480	1,341	1,311	1,273	1,407	18,051
1970	1,470	1,388	1,614	1,660	1,813	1,813	1,640	1,513	1,360	1,389	1,333	1,442	18,435
1971	1,525	1,444	1,653	1,709	1,864	1,830	1,649	1,541	1,406	1,435	1,345	1,447	18,848
1972	1,530	1,484	1,695	1,722	1,869	1,878	1,731	1,593	1,465	1,464	1,352	1,443	19,226
1973	1,533	1,449	1,674	1,708	1,805	1,775	1,609	1,462	1,343	1,369	1,304	1,411	18,442

1/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Milk Production by Months, United States
1971, 1972 and 1973

Month	Milk cows on farms 1/			Milk per cow 2/			Milk production 2/		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
1,000				Pounds			Million pounds		
January	11,908	11,773	11,599	804	826	826	9,573	9,720	9,581
February	11,889	11,760	11,561	756	799	776	8,994	9,391	8,969
March	11,881	11,747	11,525	860	890	886	10,220	10,452	10,213
April	11,867	11,739	11,479	878	900	899	10,423	10,566	10,321
May	11,852	11,721	11,446	942	961	961	11,159	11,268	10,998
June	11,841	11,703	11,412	913	935	926	10,815	10,946	10,570
July	11,832	11,685	11,375	869	894	883	10,285	10,442	10,042
August	11,822	11,672	11,347	834	855	834	9,860	9,978	9,466
September	11,811	11,659	11,317	790	809	785	9,328	9,431	8,888
October	11,799	11,650	11,301	800	810	791	9,444	9,437	8,939
November	11,794	11,639	11,295	763	766	762	9,004	8,911	8,609
December	11,785	11,624	11,287	800	805	800	9,427	9,362	9,024
Annual	11,842	11,698	11,419	10,009	10,250	10,125	118,532	119,904	115,620

1/Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INVENTORY

The annual inventory of livestock and poultry on Wisconsin farms showed an increase in all cattle, hogs, and turkey breeder hens but a decline in chickens and sheep and lambs.

All cattle and calves totaled 4,400,000 on January 1, 1974, up almost 3 percent from a year earlier and the fourth consecutive year that cattle numbers increased. This was the largest number of cattle and calves on Wisconsin farms since January 1, 1965.

The gain in the number of cattle and calves was primarily due to more animals for feedlot finishing. Milk cows and heifers that have calved declined 2 percent during 1973 to 1,796,000. Beef cows that calved numbered 312,000, nearly the same as on January 1, 1973. Milk replacement heifers weighing over 500 pounds were down 1 percent but beef replacement heifers increased 2 percent. Steers and other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more showed a significant increase of almost 16 percent. Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 pounds were up 10 percent from January 1 last year.

Sheep and lambs in Wisconsin continued to decline. There were 112,000 sheep and lambs on farms January 1, a drop of 10 percent from a year earlier and 100,000 less than a decade ago. Stock sheep totaled 98,000, down 11,000 from

January 1, 1973 while the 14,000 sheep and lambs on feed were 1,000 under the previous year.

All chickens on Wisconsin farms as of December 1, 1973 totaled 6,821,000, a 3 percent decrease from a year earlier. Hens and pullets of laying age, which accounted for 81 percent of all chickens, were 6 percent fewer than the previous year but other pullets and chickens increased.

There were 1,575,000 hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1, 1973, a gain of 100,000 from a year earlier. Market hogs were up 8 percent but the 252,000 hogs kept for breeding were about the same as on December 1, 1972.

The total value of all cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkey breeder hens amounted to well over \$1.8 billion, up 26 percent from a year ago as value per head increased for all species.

Farmers valued all cattle at a record \$395 each, \$70 higher than last year. All hogs were valued at \$60.50 a head, up \$19.50 from a year earlier and also a record high. All sheep and lambs averaged \$28.50 a head on January 1, a gain of \$4.50 from the previous year and the highest since 1952. Chickens, at \$1.65 each, were 45 cents above a year earlier and the most since 1949. Turkey breeder hens were valued at \$9.50 per bird, an increase of \$3.00 from last year.

Number and Value of Livestock, January 1
Wisconsin

Class of Livestock	Number		Farm value per head		Farm value	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
	1,000 head		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
Cows and heifers that have calved	2,138	2,108	—	—	—	—
Beef cows	313	312	—	—	—	—
Milk cows	1,825	1,796	—	—	—	—
Heifers 500 pounds and over	943	964	—	—	—	—
For beef cow replacement	99	101	—	—	—	—
For milk cow replacement	705	700	—	—	—	—
Other heifers	139	163	—	—	—	—
Steers 500 pounds and over	284	326	—	—	—	—
Bulls 500 pounds and over	47	48	—	—	—	—
Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 pounds	871	954	—	—	—	—
All cattle and calves	4,283	4,400	325.00	395.00	1,391,975	1,738,000
Hogs and pigs 1/	1,475	1,575	41.00	60.50	60,475	95,288
Stock sheep and lambs	109	98	—	—	—	—
Ewes 1 year and older	88	78	—	—	—	—
Ewe lambs	14	13	—	—	—	—
Rams and wethers 1 year and older	4	4	—	—	—	—
Wether and ram lambs	3	3	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs on feed	15	14	—	—	—	—
All sheep and lambs	124	112	24.00	28.50	2,976	3,192
Hens and pullets of laying age	5,876	5,507	—	—	—	—
Other pullets	1,114	1,240	—	—	—	—
Other chickens	59	74	—	—	—	—
All chickens 1/ 2/	7,049	6,821	1.20	1.65	8,459	11,255
Turkey breeder hens 1/	76	81	6.50	9.50	494	770
Total value 4/	—	—	—	—	1,464,379	1,848,505

United States

Beef cows	40,918	42,874	—	—	—	—
Milk cows	11,624	11,284	—	—	—	—
All other cattle	68,992	73,382	—	—	—	—
All cattle and calves	121,534	127,540	252.00	321.00	30,582,529	40,905,700
Hogs and pigs 1/	59,180	61,022	42.00	60.20	2,484,154	3,676,250
Sheep and lambs	17,724	16,545	26.70	32.70	472,714	540,651
Chickens 1/ 2/	406,241	412,329	1.28	1.62	519,908	669,120
Turkey breeder hens 1/ 3/	3,303	3,605	6.50	9.58	21,466	34,529
Total value	—	—	—	—	34,075,971	45,826,250

1/December 1 previous year. 2/Does not include commercial broilers. 3/U. S. totals are for 26 states with 10,000 or more breeder hens. 4/Includes cattle, hogs, all sheep, chickens, and turkey breeder hens.

MOST FARM PRODUCT PRICES HIGHER IN JANUARY

Prices of most livestock and crops in Wisconsin increased from December to January. The index of prices received for all farm products sold in Wisconsin during the period ending in mid-January averaged a record high of 564 percent of the 1910-14 base. This was an increase of 16 points (3 percent) from a month earlier and 36 percent above January 15, 1973.

Beef cattle prices reversed the downward trend of the previous four months by increasing \$2.50 from December to January. Steers and heifers averaged \$38.50 a hundredweight in January, up \$4.10 from a month earlier and \$3.10 more than last year. Slaughter cows, at \$31.40 a hundredweight in mid-January, were \$2.10 above December and \$5.30 greater than a year ago.

Hogs averaged \$39.70 a hundredweight for January, a gain of \$2.10 from the previous month and \$8.70 above January 1973. Calves brought an average of \$50.60 a hundredweight as of January 15, down 10 cents from December but \$2.50 more than a year earlier.

The mid-January sheep price of \$11.10 a hundredweight was up \$1.10 from the previous month and \$4.10 higher than January 1973. Lambs averaged \$35.00 a hundredweight in January, an increase of \$3.50 from December and \$6.40 above last year. The mid-January wool price of 58 cents a pound remained unchanged from a month earlier but was 13 cents more than a year ago.

Egg prices increased 4 cents from December to January. At 65 cents a dozen on January 15, eggs were 16 cents above last year and a record high for that date. Turkeys dropped 5 cents from December to January but at 32 cents a pound liveweight were 8 cents higher than mid-January 1973.

Corn averaged \$2.58 a bushel on January 15, a gain of 15 cents from the previous record high reached in December and nearly double a year ago. Oats continued to increase, averaging a record high of \$1.46 a bushel in mid-January. This was 12 cents above the previous month and 57 cents greater than January 1973.

Wheat soared to a record price of \$5.18 a bushel in January, up 52 cents from December and \$3.01 higher than a year earlier. Soybeans, at \$5.66 a bushel in mid-January, were 8 cents more than the previous month and \$1.81 above

last year. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$32.00 a ton in January, up \$1.50 from December but \$5.00 below the record high a year ago.

DECEMBER RED MEAT OUTPUT HIGHER THAN YEAR AGO

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during December totaled over 106 million pounds, an increase of 9 percent from a year ago. Output of beef in December was up 10 percent from the previous year and pork production rose 8½ percent.

Slaughtering plants in Wisconsin killed 109,000 cattle during December, an increase of 8,000 from December 1972. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in December was 1,144 pounds, 21 pounds heavier than a year earlier.

There were 253,000 hogs butchered in December, up 11,000 from the previous year. Hogs averaged 247 pounds liveweight for December, a gain of 9 pounds from December 1972.

Calf slaughter in Wisconsin during December totaled 20,200, a decline of 2,400 from a year ago. At 145 pounds average liveweight for December, calves were 5 pounds lighter than the previous year. The December sheep and lamb kill of 400 was 100 more than in December 1972.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	December		Change from last year	December	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	101.0	109.0	+ 8	113.4	124.7
United States 1/ . . .	2,866.4	2,762.0	- 4	3,026.6	2,934.1
Calves					
Wisconsin	22.6	20.2	- 11	3.4	2.9
United States 1/ . . .	239.4	187.5	- 22	56.0	43.0
Hogs					
Wisconsin	242.0	253.0	+ 5	57.6	62.5
United States 1/ . . .	6,663.4	6,288.5	- 6	1,606.1	1,559.1
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin3	.4	+ 33	.029	.038
United States 1/ . . .	780.3	638.7	- 18	83.6	69.6

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Jan. 15, 1972	Jan. 15, 1973	Dec. 15, 1973	Jan. 15, 1974
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	420.00	485.00	615.00	605.00
Steers and heifers . .	Cwt.	30.00	35.40	34.40	38.50
Cows	Cwt.	21.80	26.10	29.30	31.40
Calves	Cwt.	42.20	48.10	50.70	50.60
Hogs	Cwt.	22.40	31.00	37.60	39.70
Sheep	Cwt.	5.30	7.00	10.00	11.10
Lambs	Cwt.	25.90	28.60	31.50	35.00
Wool	Lb.	.20	.45	.58	.58
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.085	.100	.195	.165
Turkeys	Lb.	.230	.240	.370	.320
Eggs	Doz.	.240	.490	.610	.650
Corn	Bu.	1.10	1.30	2.43	2.58
Wheat	Bu.	1.44	2.17	4.66	5.18
Oats	Bu.	.71	.89	1.34	1.46
Soybeans	Bu.	2.88	3.85	5.58	5.66
Alfalfa hay, baled . .	Ton	23.50	37.00	30.50	32.00

1/Excludes broilers.

BUTTER STOCKS DOWN NEARLY ONE HALF FROM YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of January amounted to only 53 million pounds, down almost half from a year ago and the lowest total for that date since 1967. Government stocks of butter, at 13 million pounds in cold storage on January 31, were down considerably from the 88 million pounds held a year earlier.

Stocks of cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of January totaled over 361 million pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Supplies of American cheese, at 296 million pounds, were 13 percent above January 31, 1973. Swiss cheese stocks were 78 percent higher than last year but stocks of all other cheese were down 5 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	January 31, 1972	January 31, 1973	January 31, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	81,825	108,866	53,099	— 51
Cheese, American	237,083	262,854	296,095	+ 13
Cheese, Swiss	6,636	8,120	14,450	+ 78
Cheese, all other	48,086	53,665	50,872	— 5
Cheese, total	291,805	324,639	361,417	+ 11
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	3,290	3,303	1,242	— 62
Cheese, American	134,397	171,071	173,726	+ 2
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	58,106	87,587	13,231	— 85
Cheese, American	3,415	149	375	+ 152

*Included in above totals.

FARM LABOR WAGE
RATES UP IN 1973

Wage rates paid to hired workers on farms in Wisconsin and the Nation were higher in 1973 than in 1972. Wisconsin workers received an average of \$418.00 a month with a house in 1973, up \$31.00 from the previous year. Monthly rates with board and room averaged \$318.00 in 1973, an increase of \$23.00 from 1972. Hired help in Wisconsin who worked by the day received an average of \$13.60 with board and room, a gain of \$1.30 from a year earlier. Daily rates without board and room averaged \$17.10, up \$1.40 from 1972. Those workers employed by the hour in Wisconsin during 1973 earned an average of \$2.06, an increase of 14 cents from the previous year. Farm labor wage rates in the Nation for 1973 showed similar gains from 1972 but averaged lower than in Wisconsin.

Farm Workers and Wages
Wisconsin and United States

Item	Wisconsin		United States	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
January				
Farm Workers 1/ Hired	11,000	12,000	688,100	688,200
Family	148,000	147,000	2,639,700	2,621,100
Total	159,000	159,000	3,327,800	3,309,300
1972 1973 1972 1973				
Wage Rates 2/ By the month				
With house	\$387.00	\$418.00	\$361.00	\$393.00
With board and room	\$295.00	\$318.00	\$280.00	\$309.00
By the day				
With board and room	\$12.30	\$13.60	\$12.00	\$13.10
Without board and room	\$15.70	\$17.10	\$13.20	\$14.50
By the hour				
No board or room	\$1.92	\$2.06	\$1.84	\$2.00

1/Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. 2/Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above.

FEEDER PIG PRICES DOWN

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$30.70 in January for a feeder pig averaging 40 pounds. This was \$1.40 below last October and \$3.80 under the record high reached in July 1973. However, the January feeder pig price was nearly \$6.00 above a year ago and over three times greater than the record low in January 1971.

Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973	24.80	30.90	34.50	32.10
1974	30.70			
Pounds per head				
1965	42	40	40	40
1966	41	40	40	41
1967	42	41	41	41
1968	42	40	41	41
1969	41	41	41	41
1970	41	39	40	40
1971	41	40	40	41
1972	41	40	40	40
1973	41	40	40	40
1974	40			

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

MEAT STOCKS
ABOVE LAST YEAR

The Nation's cold storage stocks of meat at the end of January were 27 percent higher than a year ago. Pork stocks totaled 298 million pounds, a gain of 47 percent from January 31, 1973. Stocks of pork increased 11 million pounds during January and were 93½ million pounds above last year.

The Nation had 468½ million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of January, up 22 percent from a year earlier. Beef stocks increased nearly 21 million pounds during January and were about 86 million pounds above the previous year.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

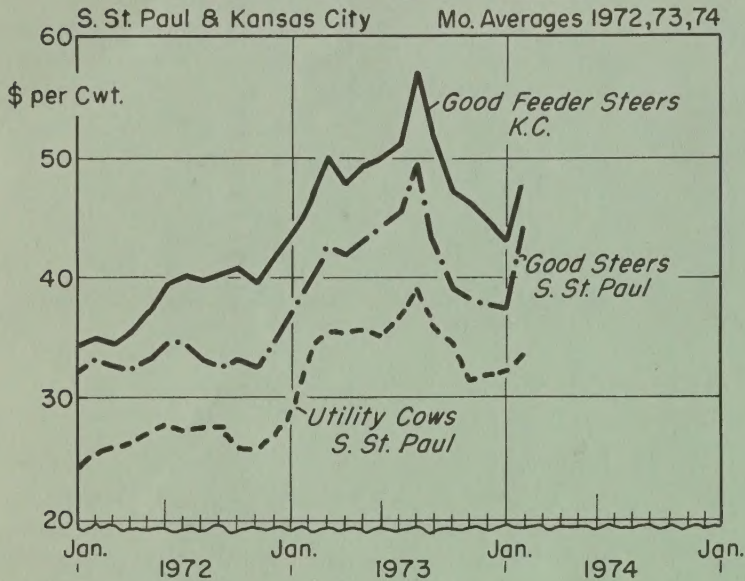
Commodity	Jan. 31, 1972	Jan. 31, 1973	Dec. 31, 1973	Jan. 31, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds					Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	330,232	370,020	432,083	453,646	+ 23
In cure and cured	8,222	12,756	15,696	14,854	+ 16
Total	338,454	382,776	447,779	468,500	+ 22
Pork:					
Frozen	281,600	189,437	271,631	282,990	+ 49
In cooler	19,526	13,634	14,479	15,261	+ 12
Total	301,126	203,071	286,110	298,251	+ 47
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,893	15,580	11,566	12,343	- 21
Lamb and mutton, frozen	16,355	14,258	15,034	13,563	- 5
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	61,262	49,597	53,982	57,063	+ 15
Other meats	19,511	16,615	15,209	17,375	+ 5
Total, all meats	745,601	681,897	829,680	867,095	+ 27

BEEF CATTLE PRICES HIGHER

Prices of feeder steers at Kansas City and fed steers and utility cows at St. Paul increased from December to January. Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$47.81 a hundredweight at Kansas City during January, up \$4.40 from December and \$4.00 above January 1973.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$44.31 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market for January, an increase of \$6.81 from the previous month and \$6.86 more than a year ago. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$33.60 a hundredweight in January, a gain of \$1.46 from December and \$4.73 higher than last year.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

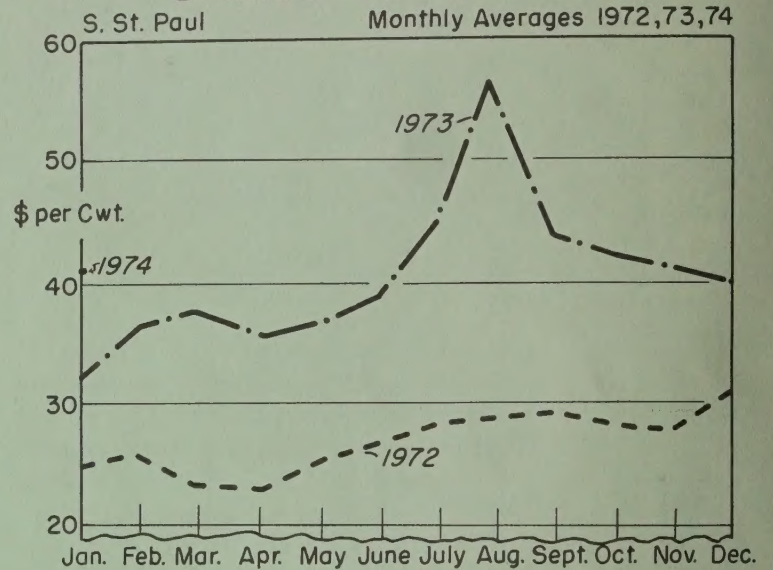


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PRICES OF BARROWS AND GILTS AVERAGE HIGHER IN JANUARY

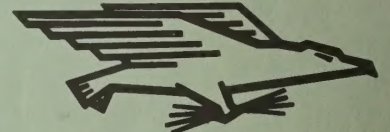
Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$40.68 a hundredweight during January, up 69 cents from a month earlier. The January average price for barrow and gilts was \$8.19 above the previous year.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



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